

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected all pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,751,597 to Brodsky et al. ("Brodsky"). However, Brodsky is not prior art to the above-referenced application. The above-referenced application claims priority to an International Application filed on April 21, 1999. The earliest priority date for Brodsky is October 26, 1999. Accordingly, because the claims are only rejected in view of the Brodsky reference, which is not prior art to the present invention, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-8 are respectfully solicited. In the event that the application is not deemed in condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in an effort to advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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